

**Mental Health Planning Council
10/3/03 Meeting Minutes**

Members present:

Rich Greb, Chair	X	Bill Jones	X
Libby Jones, Co-Chair	X	Phyllis Kennedy	X
Jimmie Arrington		Jeff McCloud	X
Mary Bethel		Dr. James Osberg	X
Dorothy O'Neil	X	Pat Prescott	X
Rochelle Edwards		Chris Rakes	
Dan Fox	X	Frank Read	
Dr. Linner Ward Griffin		Osborne Shamberger	
Kaye Holder	X	Paula Snipes	
Patricia Harris	X	Mary Recca Todd	X
John Hayes		Carolyn Wiser	X
Ellen Holliman	X	Laura Yates	X
Bill Hussey		Guest: Sarah Alice Harris	X
Diann Irwin	X	Guest:	X
Lucy Dorsey			
Support Staff: Julie Seibert	X	Support Staff: Amy Smiley	X

Rich Greb, Chair

Rich reminded the Council that the next meeting will be November 7, 2003 in lieu of December 5, 2003. This meeting will be primarily to review the Mental Health Block Grant Report for SFY 2002-2003. Rich also reminded the Council that if any member cannot attend the meetings, to please send a representative in their place.

Laura Yates, Council member, Division of Prisons

Laura gave the Council a very comprehensive overview of the mental health programming that currently exists in our prison system. She provided the "Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project" report that set the pace for changes in mental health practices in prisons. It demonstrates each policy that corresponds with an event or issue that an inmate faces with the mental health system.

Laura shared that mental health services within the Division of Prisons (DOP) begin at the Diagnostic Center. When an inmate is being processed into the prison system, he/she participates in a variety of interactions designed to evaluate that person's needs, strengths and issues related to care provision during incarceration. The various levels of care are: inpatient-acute care hospitalization, residential care, outpatient mental health services, and specialized services.

Laura reviewed the aftercare process with the Council as well. Formal aftercare planning begins 90 days prior to the inmate's release. In this planning, the inmate and the social worker, along with other members of the treatment team, complete a living arrangement, mental health, medical, financial, educational, vocational and social plan which will transition that inmate back to the community.

Rich asked Laura, "What can the Council do?" Laura's response was: (1) "Support us" and (2) "If you have any influence in commenting on all the budget cuts we face, please do. It is becoming more and more difficult to do what we do with less staff and less funding."

Ellen Holliman, Council member, Commission Representative

Ellen had two items of business for the Council:

- (1) Support letter addressing Special Assistance to the Secretary. Ellen presented a draft letter to the secretary encouraging the expansion of Special Assistance to persons with disabilities. This topic has been discussed several times in previous meetings and the Council has voted in the past to send a letter to the Secretary in support of the Special Assistance Pilot. The Council again voted in favor of sending this letter. Rich will draft it on the Council's letterhead and send it.
- (2) The Mental Health Commission. Ellen reviewed the history of the MH Commission and its role in our state's system. Information she shared included committees of the Commission, officers, protocols for Commission members, and how meetings are conducted. Ellen also included a listing of all Commission members and how to contact them.

The Council discussed the similarities in the MH Planning Council and the MH Commission's mission, vision and interests. Many agreed that if there were common projects that each group could work on together, it might help the Division achieve its goals in a variety of ways this year.

Julie Seibert, Division of MH/DD/SAS, Planning Team

Julie verbally provided some preliminary outcomes and information she had been obtaining to draft the Mental Health Block Grant Report for SFY 2002-2003. Some specific items of interest were: an increase in the number of children involved in the juvenile justice system, but also an increase in the number of children receiving MH services; a higher penetration rate in rural MH programs than urban; and CTSP funds for family participation came out in record time this year. Julie will be prepared to give the Council a more comprehensive overview of the draft at our next meeting for further input.

Rich shared with the Council the final letter that was sent to Governor Easley, in conjunction with the MHBG Plan. This letter included all of the suggestions of the Council from our meeting August 1, 2003.

Amy Smiley, Division Affairs, Staff to the Council

Amy provided a brief overview of all of the Legislative bills affecting mental health that were ratified in this past long session that recently adjourned. Basic questions were answered about any particular bills of interest. Amy will provide the Council with copies of the final "Legislative Report: 2003" when it is complete.

Individual member updates were given and the meeting was adjourned.

The Council will have its final 2003 meeting November 7, 2003.